

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-7 and 10-21 have been rejected over Godde et al. in view of Reich (and Piegay as to claim 5).

Claims 20 and 21 are supported respectively by Figs. 1-3 and Figs. 4-7. Claims 20 and 21 are being amended to recite that the claimed guide elements are immovably secured to the board, and the claimed anchoring elements (e.g., anchoring parts 10 in Fig. 1) or the separate parts (e.g. receiving parts 16 in Fig. 4) are “immovably integrated into the foam of the core by foaming of the core and hardening of the foam.” The amendment is supported e.g. by paragraphs [0027] and [0032].

Also, the last paragraph of claim 21 has been amended to conform its language to that of claim 20.

As thus amended, claims 20 and 21 recite that the guide elements are secured to the sliding board in a non-detachable manner. This could not be realized if there were screw connections between the fastening elements and the guide elements. With the fastening elements anchored in the hardened foam (present claim 20) or anchored in separate parts integrated into the foam (present claim 21) the connection is immovable. The guide elements could not be removed from the sliding board without destroying either the binding parts (guide elements or fastening elements) or the ski.

The prior art documents cited in the Office Action do not disclose the above-mentioned features and do not render these features obvious. U.S. Patent No. 6,848,703 B2 (Godde) discloses a platform (61), which may be comparable with a guide element in the present application, but it is screwed directly onto the upper surface (3) of the ski (1). The screws pass through holes in the two longitudinal parts (9) and (10) and the bridge (11), see column 5, lines 63 to 67. Thus the connection is not immovable.

U.S. Patent No. 5,525,083 (Reich) discloses a water ski comprising a flex-adjusting plate (31) having elongated slots (36) for receiving threaded fasteners (37). The fasteners (37) secure the flex-adjusting plate to the ski by screwing into internally threaded cylindrical inserts (38) which are embedded in the body of the ski (column 2, lines 40 to 46). Therefore, again, screw fastenings hold the plate (31) onto the ski, so that the connection between the plate (31) and the ski is not immovable.

The statement in the Office Action that “it is obvious [in Reich] that the separate parts (38) have been integrated into the foam of the core by foaming of the core and hardening of the foam” is mere speculation. There is no such disclosure in the Reich patent. Reich says only that the part 38 is “embedded in the body of the ski.” Col. 2, line 46. There is no teaching of how it is “embedded” in the ski. It could be screwed in, or force-fitted into a hole in the ski, for example. It is simply speculation to assume that the parts 38 meet the limitations recited in claims 20 and 21.

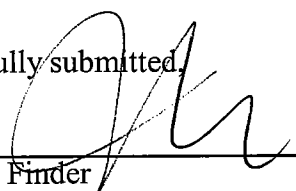
And again, the fasteners in Reich are screwed into the parts 38, so the connection is not immovable as claimed.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 1-7 and 10-21 is requested.

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TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING  
SYSTEM ON June 5, 2007.

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Respectfully submitted,



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